SALUTE VETERANS BY READING UP ON WAR

TWO MILITARY BOOKS ARE GENERATING WORTHWHILE BUZZ. PAGES 14-15

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Tuesday, November 11, 2014 www.metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

Local mom files lawsuit for fair school funding

Education. The suit claims that current school district funding violates the Pennsylvania's constitution to provide a "thorough and efficient" education. One mother, Sheila Armstrong, said she sees the lack of an efficient education firsthand with her two sons. PAGE 02

MOVIES.

A NEW FILM TAKES YOU INTO A MUSEUM PAGE 13

"National Gallery," the latest from the legendary documentarian Frederick Wiseman, plays once Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at the PFS Roxy Theater. / ZIPPORAH FILMS

Marines celebrate birthday

PAGE 04

Blake Lively has a new best friend

PAGE 12

Tips for traveling for cheap

PAGE 16

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1 NEWS

Top 3

What's trending online at Metro.us

1 'Adele, One Direction and more confirmed for Band Aid 30 single'

2 'Watch: Nick Jonas releases "Jealous" gospel remix'

3 'VIDEO: Seattle Seahawk bird goes rogue, attacks fan'

On-the-go

Want to read Metro on your mobile device? Get the app! All you have to do is search for Metro US in the App Store or Google Play to get all the latest in news, sports, lifestyle and entertainment for free.

New lawsuit seeks more school funding in state

Pennsylvania. Sheila Armstrong, a mother of two, said to work for public education is part of her "duty."

For Sheila Armstrong, one of seven parents named in a lawsuit filed Monday that claims the state's funding of school districts is unconstitutional, the issue is very personal.

"I feel as though this is my duty," said Armstrong, 37, the mother of two boys. "This is all about the kids. Children cannot fight for themselves."

The lawsuit, filed by attorneys from Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia (PILCO) and Philadelphia's Education Law Center (ELC) on behalf of parents and school districts across the state, says current school district funding violates the Pennsylvania constitution's mandate to provide a "thorough and efficient" public school system.

"The massive financial crisis that's happening in our public schools is not isolated to one or two or even a dozen school districts," said ELC lawyer David Lapp. "This is massively affecting hundreds of school districts."

Armstrong, of North Philadelphia, lives with the results of low school funding.

"When my son was learning about means, mode, median, range ... I asked my son, 'Where are your notes?' He showed me one piece of paper," she said. "They couldn't bring the textbooks home, they have to leave them at school. Then I learned some kids at the school have to share books."

Her son also is a transfer, because his old elementary school was closed due to cuts.

"He had a system and a structure. Now he has to walk all these extra blocks to get to school," she said.

The lawsuit says that conditions like these make it effectively impossible for students in underfunded school districts to succeed and claims the state must remedy the situation.

"What we're asking the court is to tell the legislature to go back and do their jobs ... and make sure kids get enough money," said PILCO executive director Jennifer Clarke.

"I'm not asking for trillions and billions of dollars," Armstrong said. "I just want what is right for our children and to make sure they get the quality education that they deserve."

Visit Metro.us to see Armstrong's testimonial. / PROVIDED

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

Legal arguments

The state does not have a permanent funding formula, but reappropriates funds for each district each year.

- The suit claims the state has an "irrational and inequitable school financing arrangement that drastically underfunds school districts across the Commonwealth and discriminates against children on the basis of the taxable property and household incomes in their districts."
- Per pupil funding goes from $28K in wealthy districts to $9,800 in poorer districts.

Gingerbread houses on display

Terry Sherwin, top right, jokes with chef Samantha Ross, co-creator with Katie Dyer of the Shofuso Japanese House and Garden gingerbread house at the opening of the Fairmount Park Holiday Gingerbread House Display. Right, Tyson Gardener from Historic Strawberry Mansion, in the top hat, converses with an onlooker. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

MontCo. SEPTA will hold public meetings on KoP Rail Project

The public will have the opportunity later this month to bring their concerns to SEPTA officials regarding the proposed King of Prussia Rail Project.

SEPTA announced Monday that public meetings will he held on Nov. 17 and Nov. 19 to update people on plans for extending the Norristown High Speed Line to stops in King of Prussia and Upper Merion Township.

On Nov. 17, the meeting will be held at the Radisson Hotel at Valley Forge, 1160 First Ave., in its Grand Ballroom.

On Nov. 19, the meeting will be held at the Norristown Municipal Building at 235 E. Airy St.

On both dates the meeting will last from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and SEPTA's project team will make a presentation at 6:30 p.m.

"We're still a good distance away from anything happening," said SEPTA spokesman Andrew Busch in a news release Monday. "This is just to present the options that are available."

METRO

Philadelphia

Bracelet judge to plead guilty

Former Traffic Court Judge Thomasine Tynes, 71, will plead guilty to charges based on a controversial undercover sting that caught her on tape accepting a $2,000 Tiffany bracelet for political favors, reports say.

The information was revealed in a sentencing memo by the lawyer for Tynes, who faces sentencing for perjury related to ticket-fixing at Traffic Court next week.

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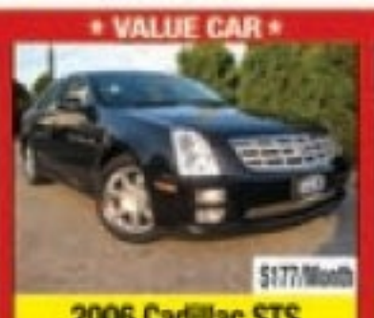
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Hundreds of active and non-active Marines gathered at Cookie's in South Philadelphia. / PHOTOS BY CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Marines honor Corps birthday in birthplace

South Philly. Active and non-active members of the USMC celebrated the Corps birthday on Oregon Avenue.

All things Marine Corps were celebrated on Monday.

Washington, D.C. can have the swanky balls with the dress-blue uniforms. Philadelphia prefers a block party in South Philadelphia to commemorate the birthday of the United States Marine Corps.

"People come from all over to come to this thing," said veteran William Shields. "I think it's the main informal celebration."

The U.S. Marine Corps celebrated its 239th birthday on Monday. The yearly tradition celebrates the founding of the Corps, which was formed by the Continental Congress as an amphibious unit at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia on Nov. 10, 1775. The first Marine birthday was celebrated in 1923.

But in 1970, James R. "Daddy Wags" Wagner started drinking with a few buddies at his uncle Bill "Cookie" Cook's South Philadelphia bar and it grew every year thereafter. In 1977, Wagner bought the bar, kept the name and declared that an annual block party will be held outside the tavern at 10th and Oregon, which attracts Marines from across the country every November.

"I'm sure they have some hoity-toity dress blues ball in Washington, D.C.," said Shields, from Wilmington. "But Philly is a working-class, kind of tough town and it's just a perfect place for Marines to gather and celebrate the birthday."

What's open, what's not?

Today, federal agencies and courts are closed, as are state and city agencies.

- Local and state courts, except for arraignment court, are closed.
- The post office is closed.
- Public schools are closed.
- Trash and recyclables will not be picked up.

Quoted

"It's more like church. The party is a place for Marines to come from around the country. It's spiritual."

Gerry Zell,
who served as a first-class petty officer in the Navy from 1962 to 1966

TOMMY ROWAN
@tommyrowan
tommy.rowan@metro.us

Frackville. Mumia sues state to stop 'Muzzle Mumia' law

Mumia Abu-Jamal is suing the state over a lawsuit inspired by his pre-recorded commencement speech this fall at Goddard College.

The "Revictimization Relief Act," passed after his talk, allows victims of crimes to sue the perpetrators for any action that causes their victims "severe mental anguish."

"How can the state's legislators pass and politicians sign the recent law described as the 'Muzzle Mumia Act'?" Abu-Jamal, 60, currently incarcerated at Mahanoy SCI in Frackville, said in a statement. "They can't. At least not constitutionally. In order to do so they had to knowingly and willingly violate both the U.S. and state constitutions and their very oaths of office."

The lawsuit was filed Monday against Attorney General Kathleen Kane and Philadelphia DA Seth Williams.

"We're suing Attorney General Kane and Philadelphia District Attorney Seth Williams before they can sue to keep Mumia from speaking publicly," said Bret Grote, legal director of the Abolitionist Law Center, which is filing the lawsuit, in a statement.

The lawsuit seeks a declaration from the courts that the law is unconstitutional and an injunction "invalidating the statute," according to court papers.

At this time no civil action has been filed under the Revictimization Relief Act. SAM NEWHOUSE

More details

Abu-Jamal is serving a life sentence for the 1981 murder of Philadelphia Police Officer Daniel Faulkner.

- He is a jailhouse celebrity and records talks broadcasted on PrisonRadio.org.
- His recordings were played at Evergreen and Antioch college commencements.

Tony's Metro Magic toy drive

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In addition to Toys for Tots, your toy donations go to local families who are receiving help from Institute for the Development of African American Youth. METRO

Tacony

Divorcing man drives Corvette into river

Red Corvette / WIKIPEDIA

A man reportedly drove his red Corvette into the Delaware River near Magee Avenue around 4 p.m. Monday, purportedly as revenge against his wife, who he is divorcing and who shares the car with him, reports say.

It is unknown what charges he will face. METRO

STRAIGHT Talk

What do men do when Erectile Dysfunction pills aren't effective? Don't like the idea of expensive penile injections, suppositories, and vacuum pumps? Get the facts on an inflatable penile prosthesis (IPP): a permanent solution—*covered by many insurance plans*—which allows an erection as often as you like, for as long as you wish.

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Packing up a picnic

A family cleans up their picnic along the Schuylkill River near The Waterworks on Monday, as temperatures reached into the mid 60s — one of the last nice days before winter weather is here to stay. Temperatures will reach the 60s again Tuesday and Wednesday and then plummet into the 40s the rest of the week and weekend.

CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Internet traffic. Obama pressures FCC for strong neutrality rules

President Barack Obama on Monday pressured the federal communications regulator to toughen its planned rules, saying higher-fee "fast lanes" should be banned and Internet providers should be overseen more like public utilities are.

Obama's detailed position on the issue of "net neutrality," a platform in his presidential campaign in 2008, represented a rare step by the White House into the policy-setting of an independent agency.

It came after nearly 4 million comments flooded the Federal Communications Commission after Chairman Tom Wheeler formally proposed new Internet traffic rules in May.

Shares of major cable companies, which connect many Americans to the Internet, slid on the news. REUTERS

Cyber attack

Postal Service says data breach hits employees

The U.S. Postal Service was the victim of a cyber attack that may have compromised the personal information, including Social Security numbers, of more than 800,000 employees, as well as data on customers who used its call center from January through mid-August, officials said on Monday. REUTERS

Apple devices vulnerable to attack, research shows

Cyber security. Hackers can use these bugs to steal banking and email login credentials from most devices.

Cyber security researchers have warned that a bug in Apple Inc's iOS operating system makes most iPhones and iPads vulnerable to cyber attacks by hackers seeking access to sensitive data and control of their devices.

Cyber security firm FireEye Inc. published details about the vulnerability on its blog Monday, saying the bug enables hackers to access their devices by persuading users to install malicious applications with tainted text messages, emails and Web links.

The malicious application can then be used to replace genuine, trusted apps that were installed through Apple's App Store, including email and banking programs, with malicious software through a technique that FireEye has dubbed "Masque Attack."

Apple officials could not be reached for comment.

Wei said that FireEye disclosed the vulnerability to Apple in July and that representatives with the company have said they were working to fix the bug.

News of the vulnerability began to leak out in October on specialized Web forums where security experts and hackers alike discuss information on Apple bugs, Wei said.

Wei said that FireEye decided to go public with its findings after Palo Alto Networks Inc. last week uncovered the first campaign to exploit the vulnerability, a new family of malicious software known as WireLurker that infects both Mac computers and iOS.

"Currently WireLurker is the only one, but we will see more," Wei said. REUTERS

Operating systems

The security firm said it verified this vulnerability on:

iOS 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 8.0, 8.1 and 8.1.1 beta, for both jailbroken and non-jailbroken devices.

Source: FireEye

FireEye advises iOS users to refrain from installing apps from sources other than Apple's official App Store and to not click "install" on a pop-up from a third-party Web page. / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"It is a very powerful vulnerability, and it is easy to exploit."

Tao Wei, FireEye senior staff research scientist, said in an interview.

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Money trail. Veterans sue banks, claim they should pay for attacks

Wounded U.S. veterans and family members of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq sued five European banks on Monday, seeking to hold them responsible for shootings and roadside bombings because they allegedly processed Iranian money that paid for the attacks.

The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn, New York, named Barclays Plc., Credit Suisse Group AG, HSBC Holdings Plc., Standard Chartered and Royal Bank of Scotland Group Plc.

The banks did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The lawsuit was brought under the U.S. Anti-Terrorism Act, a 1992 law that permits victims to bring private suits against alleged financiers of militant operations.

The militant groups included a Shi'ite militia in Iraq, Kataib Hezbollah, as well as Quds Force. REUTERS

Arlington National Cemetery
GETTY IMAGES

Veterans and family

200

Brought on behalf of more than 200 veterans and family members, the lawsuit alleges the banks conspired with Iranian banks to mask wire transactions in order to evade U.S. sanctions.

$100M

The Iranian banks then funneled more than $100 million to militant groups that operated in Iraq at Iran's direction, according to the suit.

Health care

US releases low 2015 Obamacare forecast

The U.S. administration on Monday dramatically cut expectations for 2015 Obamacare enrollment, saying between 9 million and 9.9 million people will enroll in private health plans, compared with a Congressional Budget Office forecast of 13 million.

An Obama administration report, released just before the start of 2015 open enrollment on Saturday, also reduced the official count of 2014 enrollment to 7.1 million people as of Oct. 15, from 7.3 million in August.

CBO, which has been a leading enrollment forecaster for Obamacare up to now, predicted that the private insurance marketplaces set up by the Affordable Care Act would reach a mature 25 million paying customers by 2017. REUTERS

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2008 Buick Lucerne CXL 89k Miles $8900, $189/Month
2009 Honda Civic EX 80k Miles $9900, $209/Month
2012 Chevy Impala LS 72k Miles $9900, $209/Month
2006 Toyota RAV4 Sport AWD 79k Miles $10,900, $229/Month
2013 Dodge Avenger SE 26k Miles $10,900, $229/Month
2009 BMW 535xi AWD Twin Turbo $11,900, $249/Month
2010 Ford Taurus SEL 59k Miles $12,900, $269/Month
2006 BMW 750li $13,900, $289/Month
2009 Lexus ES 350 80k Miles $15,900, $329/Month
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Auction

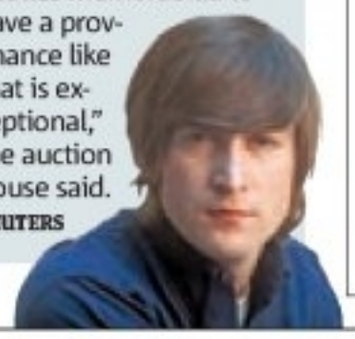
Lennon 'Paperback Writer' guitar tops offerings

A Gretsch guitar that John Lennon played for the recording of the Beatles' hit song "Paperback Writer" and then gave to his cousin is expected to fetch up to $1 million at auction in Britain this week.

Auction house TracksAuction.com said the Gretsch 6120 instrument was one of the most significant Lennon guitars to come on the market in the last 30 years.

"It's come directly from John Lennon's cousin, who was given it by John Lennon in 1967, and he's had it ever since, so for collectors of Beatles memorabilia to have a provenance like that is exceptional," the auction house said.

REUTERS



Today's winner

To enter your submission for the Metro Photo Challenge to win a $5,000 cash prize, go to **www.metrophotochallenge.com.**

PHOTO CHALLENGE

'A Cloudy Heart After the Storm'

Karen Kelly, Boston, Massachusetts; Category: My City's Magic

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Take AP Biology from your home computer

Online classes. An ambitious new program allows students to take advanced biology for free.

Would you take a biology class without a lab? / WAVEBREAK MEDIA

Good news for ambitious high school students eager to rack up college credits: You can now take AP Biology right from home — for free.

Rice University rolled out the new online course last month in a partnership with edX, an Internet platform created by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University that offers massive open online courses (known as MOOCs) to students around the world.

While all of the other classes on edX are designed to be taught at the college-level or higher, the AP biology course is the first to be designed specifically for high school students.

But some wonder if students will be interested in learning the material on their own.

Because AP Biology traditionally has lots of lab-based work, some educators wonder how appealing the course will be. One big advantage is the fact that the class will be tuition-free, while registering for a traditional Advanced Placement class can cost $75 or more. The College Board (which administers the exam) notes that over 200,000 students took the biology exam last year.

"Our program you can take for free," said Reid Whitaker, the executive director of the Center for Digital Learning and Scholarship at Rice University told the Washington Post. "This is a comprehensive program. Free resources. That's a game changer."

The topics covered

(Additionally, an exam is required in April.)

- The Cell
- Genetics
- Evolution and Diversity
- Ecology

LAKSHMI GANDHI
@LakshmiGandhi
lakshmi.gandhi@metro.us

Reminder. Don't forget to say thanks

You didn't get through this process alone. / PURESTOCK

After all of their applications are in, there's one more thing every senior should do before finishing the college admissions process: Say thank you to everyone who helped along the way. Here are the three notes every student should take the time to write:

1 Teachers who wrote a recommendation letter. Remember, a recommendation letter can take hours to research and write.

2 Guidance counselors. A simple letter goes a long way, especially if they helped narrow down your list of schools or introduced you to recruiters and scholarship programs.

LAKSHMI GANDHI

Your reach schools

The schools that wait-listed you. Were you wait-listed from your first choice? It's important to let those colleges know that you are still interested in going to school there and that would jump at the opportunity to do so. It could make a difference.

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In a word: no.
Here's why.

Drugstore chain CVS stopped selling tobacco products in September, with a company spokesperson explaining that it conflicted with CVS' health care mission. It was a bold move, putting customers' health above a substantial money driver, but one that many applauded.

Considering CVS generated $2 billion in tobacco sales each year, many expected the company to suffer. But as it turns out, revenue is actually up. According to Forbes, third-quarter sales are up 10 percent to $35 billion.

Wondering how that happened? CEO Larry Merlo said in a statement that there has been a modest increase in pharmacy business because of the rise in insured Americans under the Affordable Care Act. This boost helped recoup the slight decline in front store sales.

CVS banned all tobacco sales in September. / GETTY IMAGES

By the numbers

$35B

CVS's third-quarter sales, according to Forbes

CVS is continuing to focus on health, even changing its name to CVS Health. But while many commend the company, its decisions haven't gone without criticism. Some don't understand how CVS can ban tobacco products, yet still sell alcohol and junk food in good conscience.

While the company has not released a statement regarding alcohol and junk food, it stands firm on its decision to discontinue the sale of tobacco products. Merlo particularly has a personal tie to the commitment: His father died at age 57 from a smoking-related cancer. So far, establishing the chain as a health care provider, not just a drugstore, is working.

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Timothy Sykes is a millionaire stock trader and entrepreneur.

Big life mistakes many people make

I've been fortunate enough to become successful at a young age, and now I have several millionaire students too, but along the way I've made tons of mistakes. Out of my more than 5,000 students, I see the same mistakes being made over and over, so it's time to break the cycle.

No. 1: Being afraid to take action

We are all given various life-changing opportunities, but many people are too afraid to take action because they're afraid of the consequences. Even if their life isn't that great and they haven't achieved many or even any of their goals, they prefer the status quo rather than risking a big change from which there would be no going back. My millionaire students were ordinary middle-class people before me, but with dedication and hard work they truly transformed their lives.

No. 2: Staying isolated

Too many people never leave their city or town because they think they have everything they need right around them. Even if you have everything you could possibly want, you should get out and expand your horizons. Open yourself and your mind up to new experiences, foods, places and people. You will be amazed and awe-inspired by the outside world. As technology has improved, travel costs have come down and the ease of travel is at an all-time high, so take advantage.

New reports say fast food restaurants are on the way out of hospitals. Good, we should get rid of the unhealthy things that put us there in the first place!

A Boston man allegedly stole a woman's cell phone seconds after a subway train hit and killed her – that's just plain cruel and depressing!

No. 3: Focusing on money

It might sound strange for me to say this given that most of the time I mainly talk about making money, but it's a mistake to focus only on money and its acquisition. Yes, I am a self-made multimillionaire and yes, my proudest achievement in life is creating several millionaire students, but because I'm a stock trader, money is simply how I keep score of how well I do in my profession — it's not the goal of my life.

Don't focus solely on making money. Focus on acquiring enough knowledge and skills to be able to make money as a result of your talents. Money is nice, but self-confidence and self-sufficiency are better.

For exclusive commentary, visit **Metro.us/blogs.**

What Sykes is into this week

The U.S. stock markets have broken out to new highs after a much-needed volatile October; sometimes consolidation is healthy.

Two Americans were released from detention in North Korea; I'm ecstatic for their friends and families.

As we get closer to the end of college football season, I'm excited for the new playoff to finally decide the national champions fairly.

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2 CULTURE

Twitter feed

Today, Elizabeth Hurley is feeling the chill, Katy Perry is feeling the burn, Pam Grier is trying to help, Mindy Kaling is making new friends and Jaden Smith is feeling a certain longing.

@ElizabethHurley: First day back in winter clothes...

@katyperry: Sunburnt in November.

@PamGrier: For Veterans Day, donate a CD player with ear buds and audio books To VA hospitals. There are not enough volunteers and books. Practical!

@mindykaling: Does anyone know the crazy guy wandering around Soho with hummus on his face harassing people and singing opera? He followed me for 5 blocks. He told me "my ass was much bigger in real life" and insinuated that he knew Jason Sudeikis. Anyone know him? This is all real.

@officialjaden: You Taught Me How To Play The Piano But Have Never Heard Me.

1 New twist in the weird feud between Martha Stewart and Goop

I guess in the world of domestic divas, the enemy of your enemy is your friend? Or something? At least that's what seems to be happening now that Martha Stewart is being all warm and cozy with Blake Lively, seemingly giving her stamp of approval to Lively's Preserve. As long as it's a threat to Gwyneth Paltrow's Goop, I guess it's fine by Stewart. The classiest ex-con in Connecticut put any previous differences aside when she introduced the former "Gossip Girl" star as her "friend" at her recent American Made Summit. That might have had something to do with the fact that Lively would totally let husband Ryan Reynolds tap that, as it were. "When we met Martha, she was like, 'I'll ride motorcycles with you, Ryan,'" Lively told the crowd at the Summit. "That's the only woman that can creep up on my man and I would be OK with it." See? The power structure is preserved.

GETTY IMAGES

2 Not even $800 million can get Robert Plant interested in a Led Zeppelin reunion?

Been a long time since they rock 'n' rolled — and apparently, if you're waiting to hear these guys rock 'n' roll again, it will be a long, lonely, lonely, lonely, lonely, lonely time. / REDFERNS

Robert Plant has taken pains to say he isn't interested in another Led Zeppelin reunion, but yesterday morning a rumor circulated that made him seem severely uninterested. The Daily Mirror reported that Plant tore up a contract offered by Richard Branson worth nearly $800 million that would have brought the classic rock titans back for 35 shows in London, Berlin and somewhere in New Jersey. The other members were each reportedly offered somewhere closer to $200 million. Plant's publicist reportedly emailed The Guardian later in the afternoon and called the $800 million number "rubbish." He did not, however, offer any new hope for an actual Zeppelin reunion.

3 Nick Jonas has likely shed the promise ring

Nick Jonas is working hard to distance himself from his former Disney-controlled Jonas Brothers image, doing everything from giving crotch-grabbing demos to covering Sam Smith songs in tiny clubs in L.A. to posting as many shirtless selfies as he can. Oh, and talking about sex. A lot. In the latest issue of British gay magazine Attitude, he offers this: "Sex is such an important part of a healthy life, in the sense that it's an intrinsic part of who you are. When your sex life is not healthy, you resort to other things as an outlet."

4 Gabrielle Union says nude photo leak is more than 'a hacking scandal'

Now that she's had some time to think about it, Gabrielle Union is speaking out about the nude photo leak from two months ago perpetrated against her along with a slew of famous women like Jennifer Lawrence. "I didn't do anything wrong. No matter what people describe to me, 'It's your fault, you're stupid to take nude photos, that's what happens when you're a celebrity' — all this nonsense. ... They're criminals," she told the crowd at the recent Fun Fearless Life event in NYC. (Union also penned an editorial about it for the December issue of Cosmopolitan.) "What you do with your own body is your choice. Period. There's no gray matter there. And when someone takes your choice away and your power away over your own body, it's a crime. Period. A hacking scandal? We're lessening it, making it more palatable for mass consumption, but it's a crime."

GETTY IMAGES

5 Some fans desperately seeking Madonna

This jacket, seen in "Desperately Seeking Susan," brought in $252,000, just because it was worn by Madonna — or, if you believe her character in the film, it was also worn by Jimi Hendrix. Yeah, we saw "Desperately Seeking Susan" and we're not ashamed. / ORION PICTURES

ORION PICTURES

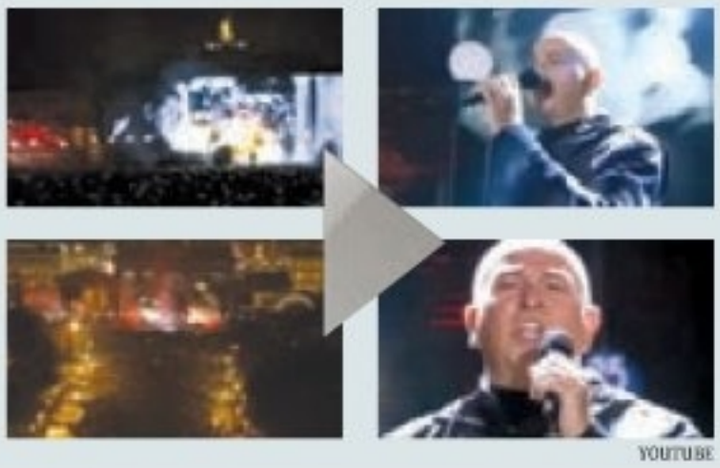
Somebody just paid a whole lot of money for the ability to do some really authentic Madonna cosplay. At the recent Icons & Idols: Rock n' Roll charity auction in Beverly Hills, a collection of clothes from the Material Girl's back catalog brought in some impressive bids. Here are some of the highlights:

- Jacket from "Desperately Seeking Susan": **$252,000**
- Dress from wedding to Sean Penn: **$81,250**
- Gown and stole from "Material Girl" video: **$73,125**
- "A League of Their Own" baseball uniform: **$31,250**
- Gown from "Evita": **$15,000**

Daily video

We could be heroes

At the Berlin Wall, 25 years after its fall, Peter Gabriel performs David Bowie's "Heroes." What more do you need to know? Gabriel took to the stage before the Brandenburg Gate on Sunday night to perform a haunting rendition of Bowie's classic.



YOUTUBE

THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

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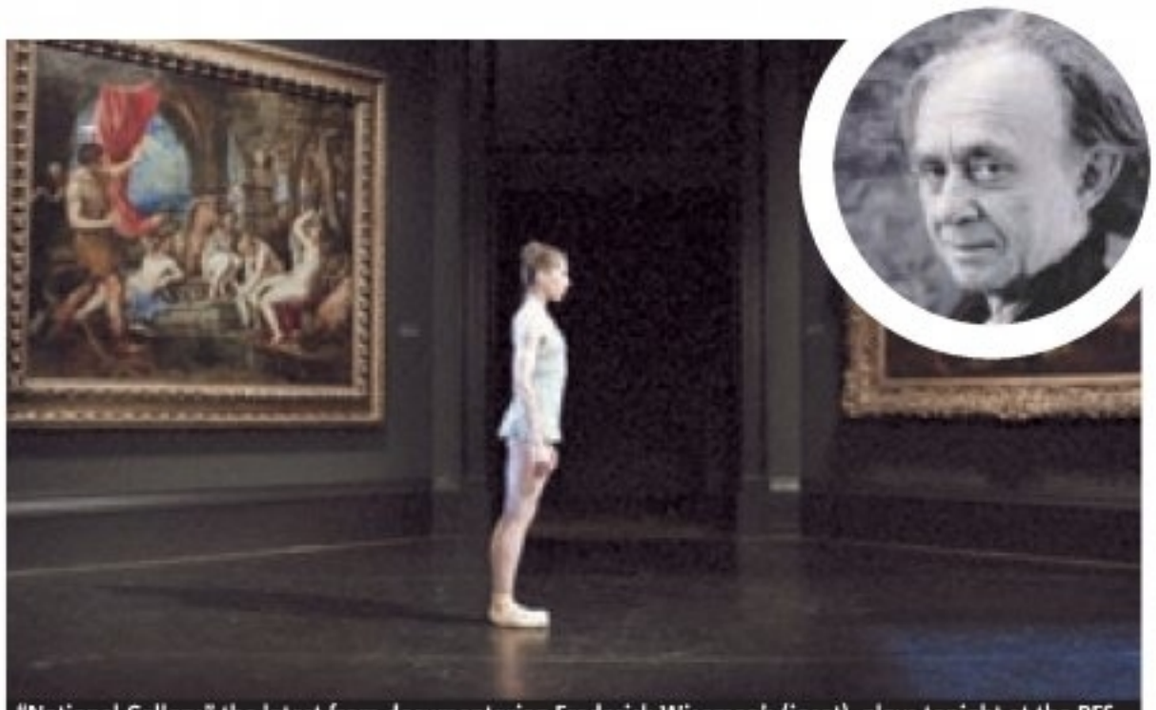

"National Gallery," the latest from documentarian Frederick Wiseman's (inset), plays tonight at the PFS Roxy (2023 Sansom St.) at 7 p.m. with a Q&A from the director. ALL PHOTOS BY ZIPPORAH FILMS

Frederick Wiseman goes to the museum

Visit **Metro.us** to read Wiseman talk about the shift to digital and the time he was on the set of "Tootsie."

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
matt.prigge@metro.us

Interview. The documentarian talks about his latest and how people never look in his camera lens.

"National Gallery" is the 41st movie that filmmaker Frederick Wiseman, a spry 84, has made in his 47-year career. In a sense it's more of the same: Like 1968's "High School" (filmed here at Northeast High School), "La Danse," "Crazy Horse" and more, it's a purely observational exploration of an institution, with no narration or music.

You are famous for staying unobtrusive. How often do people look in the camera?
It's never a problem. People don't look at the camera. And the worst thing you can do is say, "Please forget about us, don't look in the camera," because that's when someone will look in the camera. I try to demystify the process. Someone will say, "Is that a camera?" or "Is that a tape recorder?" I'll say, "Yeah, would you like to see how it works?"

So you put the camera on their shoulder or put the headphones on them. That happens occasionally, but not often.

Your earliest films tended to focus on bureaucratic incompetence. Films like this and "At Berkeley" are more hopeful.
Not everything is bad. Seeing good people doing good things and useful things and complex things well is just as good a subject as showing a horrible prison where people are abused. I don't think it represents any evolution in my thinking so much as a wish to display as wide a variety of human experiences as possible.

Praise

Errol on Frederick

There's an essay about you by Errol Morris in which he calls you "the undisputed king of misanthropic cinema."
It's very funny. But that's an example of pure projection. Because if there's any king of misanthropic cinema, it's him.

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Sharing war stories

Armed forces.

These two very different military books deserve your attention.

Writing about something as controversial as war is tricky, but two service members of the U.S. military get it absolutely right in these new releases, out just in time for Veterans Day. One provides insight on the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan while the other has a strong, personal narrative. Either way, you'll be hooked.

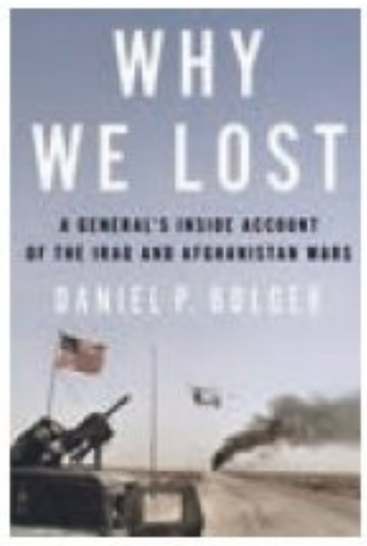
'Why We Lost: A General's Inside Account of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars'

By Daniel P. Bolger

This new release (out today) by three-star U.S. Army Lieutenant General Daniel P. Bolger is getting rave reviews for its brutal honestly and no-nonsense historical perspective. Bolger's 35-year military career has made him privy to meetings with the most important military decision-makers in the country, as well as key figures on the civilian side. He was present in meetings when big strategy decisions regarding the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan were made, and he reveals exactly what went down behind closed doors.

Bolger details the specific threats al Qaeda and other enemies presented, as well as who the key commanders were and what played into the decisions they made. He also evaluates the performance of U.S. troops, as well as

DANIEL BOLGER SERVED IN THE MILITARY FOR 35 YEARS. / PROVIDED



soldiers in the Iraq and Afghanistan armies. Bolger isn't afraid to speak his mind about mistakes that have been

TV watch list

DOCUMENTARY

'Navy SEALs: Their Untold Story'

Today is Veterans Day, and if you're reading this, there's a good chance you're commuting to work and not honoring our vets by taking a day off. If that's the case, honor the special-ops force that began during World War II with this two-hour doc that features previously unseen footage and home movies as well as interviews with former SEALs, one of whom was a D-Day demolition team member. **9 P.M., PBS**

COMEDY

'The Mindy Project'

Mindy has a certain notion about taking somebody else's stuff, but her boyfriend's mom (played awesomely by guest star Rhea Perlman, best known from "Cheers") has a little shoplifting habit that changes Mindy's mind. Then in another arc, after Peter was a jerk at their blind date, and then totally fell for her after reading her book, he comes to have second (or third) thoughts about Abby (also played awesomely, but this time by guest

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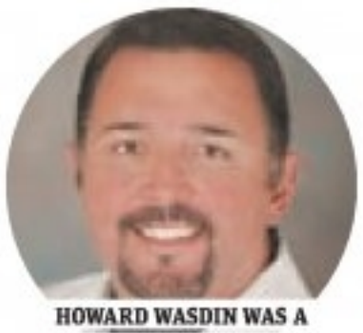

HOWARD WASDIN WAS A NAVY SEAL SNIPER. / PROVIDED

made by himself and other key players in the U.S. military. But he's just as quick to commend the things the troops and their leaders have done right.

The candor and authority of "Why We Lost" makes it a great pick to read this Veterans Day, while serving as a reminder of the challenges still faced by the troops overseas.

'The Last Rescue: How Faith and Love Saved a Navy SEAL Sniper'

By Howard Wasdin

This memoir is about war, love and redemption. Navy SEAL sniper Howard Wasdin was fortunate enough to survive the firestorm made famous in "Black Hawk Down," but his return home to reality was a harsh one.

"The Last Rescue" is about his tough transition to life after deployment, where he is not only forced to grapple with severe injuries and a long road back to recovery, but also to face the fact that his marriage is failing.

It's understandable that the hardships in Wasdin's life begin to make him question his faith in God, and therefore his purpose in life. His memoir tells a powerful story of a man searching for faith and hope, while encountering a new, unexpected romance.

Reading this book serves as a reminder that battle scars are life-long, and coming home from deployment is by no means easy.

Wasdin is also the author of the New York Times best-selling book, "SEAL Team Six: Memoirs of an Elite Navy SEAL Sniper." "The Last Rescue" is out now.

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Michael, a veteran, is featured on the premiere of A&E's "Dogs of War."
MATTHEW MCDERMOTT

star Allison Tolman from "Fargo"). **9:30 P.M., FOX**

REALITY

'Dogs of War'

Another program that coincides nicely with Veterans Day, this new series on A&E seems to be aiming to do for PTSD what "Intervention" did for drug addiction: Bring attention to a very serious issue by profiling real people suffering from it. This one involves a man named Michael who is plagued by night terrors. Another component of this program that lends itself to a little bit more feel-good possibility than "Intervention" is that the vets are paired with service dogs (that's where they get the title for this show, obviously) as they undergo rehabilitation.

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5 Ways to save money on holiday travel

DiScala typically travels around 150,000 miles a year, visiting 20 countries in the process. Here he is in India. / PROVIDED

Deals. Johnny Jet shares his top tips so you can visit the family — and still have cash left for gifts.

Travel expert John E. DiScala, better known as Johnny Jet, gets flown around the world by hotels, airlines and destinations hoping to get his nod of approval on JohnnyJet.com (and, a couple of years ago, his Travel Channel show "Hot Spots 2012"). Sir Richard Branson even gave him a personal tour of his island and spaceship. It's not a bad gig, and one that has let DiScala amass a ton of useful travel knowledge. We caught up with DiScala when he was visiting Philly and asked how to save money on Thanksgiving and Christmas trips.

Wait for dead week

1 What's the very best way to save money on holiday travel? Don't go.

"The week after Thanksgiving and two weeks after New Year's are 'dead weeks,'" DiScala says. "No one is traveling and everything is on sale. You'll find deals half the price of what flights are going for over the holidays. If you can wait, wait."

Choose your day and time wisely

2 When waiting isn't an option, "the No. 1 trick is to be flexible," says DiScala. "Take Thanksgiving: You're not going to find a deal for traveling Wednesday to Sunday."

Instead, "use your vacation days wisely" and extend the holiday, he says: Fly on the Monday or Tuesday before Turkey Day and return on the Tuesday or Wednesday after. Or, make it a mini-trip by flying out Christmas morning and returning the next day.

Be flexible on flying early in the morning or very late at night. "If you're going to save a few hundred dollars [a ticket], for a family of four, it's worth it," he says.

Consider alternate airports

3 Sure, it's easier to fly out of the closest airport — but you may be able to save big by hopping a bus or getting a friend to drive you to one that's farther away. The same goes for where you land.

Heading to Miami? Check prices for the Fort Lauderdale Airport, just 25 miles away. Alternate Airports.com has a list of nearby options to major U.S. airports.

Keep on searchin'

4 There isn't a magic website for finding the guaranteed best deal. "If there was, that would be a trillion-dollar company," DiScala says.

Check all the travel search engines, like Travelocity and Kayak, and sign up for fare alerts. Go to individual airlines' websites to see what they're offering. Always look at Southwest separately — the airline doesn't show up on the search sites.

Heading to Chicago? Don't look only at flights to O'Hare Airport. It might be cheaper to fly into Midway, or even to Milwaukee's Mitchell International. / PURESTOCK

Advice

SEARCH SMART TO FIND SAVINGS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.
ALEXIS VAIL

Don't bundle

5 "Sometimes only a certain amount of bargain fares are loaded into the system," DiScala explains. "If ... there are only three fares left at the bargain price, and you search for four people, all four will get the higher price."

Find the fare for one person. Then search for four and compare— if the second result isn't the first fare multiplied by four, try searching three people. The goal is to get the max number of family members the cheapest fare.

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How to deal with adult 'Mean Girls' like a pro

A playgroup is just as much about you as it is about your kids.
PHOTODISC

Playing nice. Author Emily Liebert dishes on the ups and downs of suburban motherhood.

In the new novel "When We Fall," Emily Liebert details the trials and tribulations of Allison Parker, a 30-something mom who moves back to her ritzy hometown while grieving the loss of her husband. We asked Liebert for her tips on navigating the often-treacherous waters of suburbia.

Avoid bragging contests

Constantly dealing with money talk can be exhausting. "I change the topic," says Liebert. "They'll say, 'Oh, I can't go to that play date because my Mercedes sl550 [needs a tune-up], and you just say, 'Oh, OK.'"

Just because your kids are friends doesn't mean you have to be

It's human nature that you simply aren't going to click with everyone. If you don't like a certain mom, Liebert advises sending your babysitter to the play dates in your place. "I have friends who are moms and it's understood that it's as much a play date for us as it is for our kids," she says.

Rise above the gossip

Gossip in tight-knit communities spreads quickly and it can be very painful to be at the center of rumors. "It's not pleasant to maintain your character," says Liebert. "But I think that if I only had my family and two or three very close friends, that's really all I need."

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It's not too late

You can always get a second chance

When Liebert's main character Allison moves back to her hometown, she's at a turning point in her life and is wondering if she's ready to love again. "I am a firm, firm believer in second chances — and third chances," says Liebert. "There's no clear definition of a path you should follow."

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Horoscope

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Concentrate on behind-the-scenes activities. This is not the time for you to be front and center.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. You should be trying to meet and mingle with individuals who can provide you with information.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20. If you put in extra hours at work, financial reward will be yours. Discuss your work and money situation with someone important so that he feels informed.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18. You can gain popularity by voicing your opinions. Correct any bad habits. Don't get involved in gossip.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Take care of any lingering health problems to avoid an illness that could put you out of commission later. Concern yourself with family matters.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. A friendship may develop into a serious partnership. Although this is a time for change, stability can be yours if you plan.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Put your effort into getting ahead financially. Then focus your attention on the home front. Pamper your mate.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. You can make changes that will enhance your appearance as well as your reputation. Don't be afraid to try something unusual. Be ready to entertain.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. Be cautious while traveling. Keep your emotions contained, and don't let your mood interfere with the task at hand.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Your generosity will lead to financial setbacks. Someone close to your heart may try to curtail your freedom.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. The possibility of a romantic interlude with a work associate is present. Make sure you carefully consider things before you proceed.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. Problems with weight will plague you if you are overindulgent. Plan social activities that involve physical exertion.

EUGENIA LAST

Sudoku: Easy and hard

7	6		9					
			2	5			4	
	3		4		8	6		
4						5		8
	8		3	4	5		9	
1		9						4
		6	7		3		2	
	1			9	2			
					4		7	5

		6		1	5			2
4							5	
	3			8	2	9	1	
				2	1	6		
1								4
		3	8	5				
	8	4	1	6			7	
	7							9
6			5	7		2		

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters

American people always lose the election

As an Independent voter with absolutely no party affiliation, every election year feels like a "loss" to me. Between the media, party rhetoric, campaigners claiming their party "won" each election, it shows exactly what's wrong with our political system and why the country isn't improving. Having your party "win" more seats has become more important than resolving issues. Controlling the House, Senate or Governor's Mansion is the priority over working together to put cities, states and the country back on the right track. The fact both parties take pride in winning the annual popularity contest with empty promises they know they will never keep, as opposed to getting past partisanship, is why every election feels the same to voters who don't believe in either party. Whether it's at the city, state or federal level, success in politics is now measured by who has the most party members, as opposed to how their actions improve the lives of the people they represent. Doesn't matter to me who "wins" each year, because in all the years I have voted, it always feels like a loss.

JASON L., VIA EMAIL

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Crossword

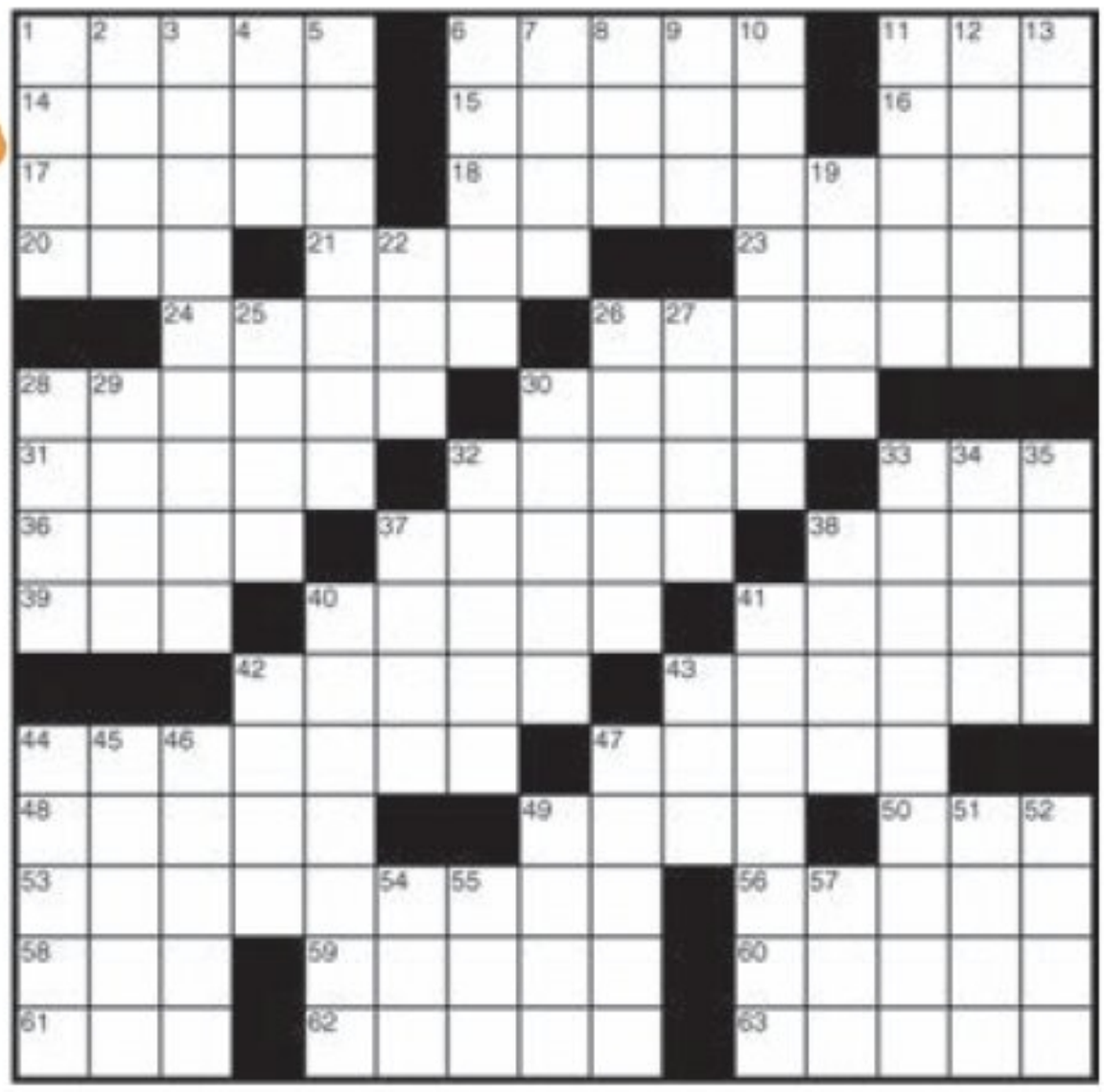
Across

1 Fabulous
6 "In Xanadu did — Khan . . ."
11 Handful of cotton
14 Dalai Lama's city
15 Willow shoot
16 Shoguns' capital
17 Mystiques
18 High, high winds (2 wds.)
20 Sci-fi Doctor
21 Not nude
23 Be evasive
24 At the — of dawn
26 Smiled upon
28 A thrill to —
30 "Dubliners" author
31 Spicy stews
32 Pack animal
33 Beak of a bird
36 "Pow!"
37 Farr of "M*A*S*H"
38 Igneous rock, once
39 Rapper — Kim
40 Briefcase closers
41 Discourage
42 Phonies
43 Against
44 Decked out
47 Free to roam
48 Snail's refuge
49 Frame of mind
50 Cause a blister
53 Atom smasher
56 Spry
58 I love (Lat.)
59 Jacques, in song
60 Richie Valens tune
61 Corral
62 Striped animal
63 "Cosmos" host

Down

1 Popular side dish
2 "Forget it!" (hyph.)
3 Narrow
4 Spanish "that"
5 Mischief-makers
6 Lollipop cop
7 Pre-owned
8 Took the bait
9 Baxter or Brown
10 1920s style (2 wds.)
11 Pesky plants
12 Familiar saying
13 Rainout-proof
19 Delicate blossom
22 Arith. term
25 Latitude
26 Mr. Karloff
27 Orpheus played it
28 Soup container
29 Pre-college
30 Restarts a battery
32 Stationed
33 Talking incessantly
34 Nonstop
35 Early movie vamp
37 Copacetic
38 Microscope part
40 Farmer's attic
41 Gizmos
42 Long hairpiece
43 Sound from the cote
44 Music org.
45 Verse
46 Spy mission
47 Not a team player
49 — or less
51 Radius companion
52 Vanilla source
54 Numerical prefix
55 Avg. size
57 — — step further

Yesterday's answer



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Voracek emerging as one of league's best

NHL. The Flyers are having no problems supplying a potent offense this season.

The Flyers have two of the NHL's top 10 scorers.

Claude Giroux, whose 18 points (four goals, 14 assists) has him ranked No. 8 in all of hockey, has solidified himself as one of the best offensive players in the world. But Jakub Voracek, just two points behind league leader Sidney Crosby with 22 points (six goals, 16 assists), isn't usually in the conversation for an Art Ross Trophy.

Sure, the season is pretty young, but Voracek looks like the real deal. He's scored points in eight straight games, one shy of his career high, and he most recently netted three assists in a game for the fifth time in his career in Saturday's win against Colorado.

His career high in points came last year with 62. He's already more than a third of the way there through just 14 games.

Not surprisingly, it's the power play that sees Voracek shine brightest. Alongside top linesmen like Giroux and Wayne Simmonds, it makes sense that the Flyers feast on the opposition with the man advantage.

"We've been together for four years," Voracek said of the Flyers power play unit, "so we've had our ups and downs so many times that we felt calm and we knew that we needed to keep doing what we were doing and that it's going to go in eventually."

Voracek and the Flyers have won three straight in the midst of a four-game homestand that concludes against the Blue Jackets on Friday. And it's always nice to see Philadelphia taking advantage of home ice.

"Anytime you have a homestand you want to play your best and you have to work on your game especially in front of your fans," Giroux said.

Voracek has 11 assists and four goals during his streak. / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"We have to make it a tough building to play in." Voracek

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3 SPORTS

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Villanova hoops ready to meet high expectations

Villanova returns a lot of veteran talent looking to win a second straight Big East title. / GETTY IMAGES

NCAA preview.

After shocking the Big East last season, the Wildcats are expected to be a top team in 2014-15.

Witnessing the love showered upon Villanova's 1985 national championship team last week, perhaps it ran through the minds of Jay Wright's current Wildcats: "Why not us?"

Villanova is coming off of a 29-5 season during which they lost to eventual national champions UConn, the fifth time since 2005 the Wildcats fell to a team that would go on to win it all (North Carolina twice, Florida, Kansas).

But that's not the overriding message Wright wants to convey to his squad, which is ranked No. 12 in preseason polls and returns all but two key players from a team that went far beyond expectations and won the Big East regular season title.

"I wanted them to understand 'It's not just about you,'" said Wright, who admits he had no idea how special that team was until it knocked off first Kansas, then Iowa to win the Paradise Jam in the Bahamas last November. "We've had great players here before you and we'll have great players after you. So value this time and carry on this tradition."

That and other messages are getting through to guards Ryan Arcidiacono and Darrun Hilliard, forward JayVaughn Pinkston and other players who know expectations are lofty. They counter by saying as long as they play "Villanova basketball" — play hard, smart, together and with pride — and get better each day, they'll be just fine. "Humble and hungry" is their mantra.

"He doesn't want success to go to our heads," said Pinkston. "Smell the perfume, but don't taste it. We're here to try to make our own legacy."

Wright smiles, knowing they're buying in.

"For a 20-year-old it's a difficult thing," said Wright, starting his 14th season at Villanova. "It's a challenge because last year was such a successful year. On the inside we're fine with that. But we understand that's not how we're measured and don't have any problem with that."

He'll look for Hilliard, Pinkston and Arcidiacono to assume some of the scoring and leadership void left by James Bell, while big man Daniel Ochefu and sophomores Josh Hart and Kris Jenkins should continue to blossom.

"We have a chance to be a special team because of our experience," said Wright.

Now comes the hard part, which was never the case back in 1985: living up to the hype.

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Players to watch

Here are the key returning players for Villanova heading into 2014-15.

- Darrun Hilliard (14.3 points per game last season)
- JayVaughn Pinkston (14.1 ppg, 6.1 rebounds)
- Ryan Arcidiacono (9.9 ppg, 3.5 assists)
- Daniel Ochefu (5.7 ppg, 6.1 rebounds)
- Josh Hart (7.8 ppg)

By the numbers

286

Head coach Jay Wright, in his 14th season at Villanova, has 286 career wins with the Wildcats.

25-1

Vegas odds of Villanova winning the Big East. Last season they were handicapped at 75-1.

14.4

James Bell led Villanova in scoring as a senior last season with 14.4 points per game.

Hype machine

No. 12 Wildcats want to leave mark on historic program

Realizing expectations are high doesn't faze the 2014-15 Wildcats. They are determined to leave their own mark.

"We know we have a lot of expectations," said captain Darrun Hilliard. "Last year we were the guys coming after those top-tier teams. Now we're one of those top-tier teams, but we have to approach it the same way."

JAY WRIGHT
GETTY IMAGES

For a team with little margin for error, it won't come easy.

"It'll be a tough act to follow," Ryan Arcidiacono said. "We've lost some key guys, but you never know. The sky's the limit."

Thirty years ago Rollie Massimino's upstart Wildcats shocked the college hoops world, led by Eddie Pinckney, Dwayne McClain, Gary McLain, Harold Jensen and Harold Pressley. Now kids who weren't alive then will try to add to the legacy. JON MARKS

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